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April 24, 2001

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO ADDRESSEE" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to The Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Parit Balson

ATTN: PATENT APPLICATIONS

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re:

U.S. Patent Application Entitled "IN SITU THERMAL PROCESSING OF A COAL FORMATION TO INCREASE A PERMEABILITY/POROSITY OF THE FORMATION" -- Wellington, et al.

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is a 217 page specification (including a title page), 727 pages of claims (Claims 1-5149), and a one page abstract. In addition, we have also included 135 formal drawings on 105 sheets. The disclosure and drawings constitute the application of Scott L. Wellington, Harold J. Vinegar, Eric de Rouffignac, John M. Karanikas, Ilya E. Berchenko, George L. Stegemeier, Kevin A. Maher, Etuan Zhang, Gordon T. Shahin, James L. Menotti, John M. Coles, Thomas D. Fowler, Charlie R. Keedy, Ajay M. Madgavkar, Martijn van Hardeveld, Robert C. Ryan, Lanny Schoeling and Fred G. Carl for the above-entitled invention.

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Commissioner for Patents April 24, 2001 Page 2

Please note that this application is filed <u>without</u> an inventor Declaration and filing fees. Applicant requests the Patent and Trademark Office to accept this application and accord a serial number and filing date as of the date this application is deposited with the U.S. Postal Service for Express Mail. Further, the Applicant requests that the NOTICE OF MISSING PARTS-FILING DATE GRANTED be sent to Mr. Del Christensen at the correspondence address set forth below.

Please address all correspondence in connection with this application to:

DEL CHRISTENSEN SHELL OIL COMPANY P.O. BOX 2463 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77252-2463 PH: (713) 241-3997

Please date stamp and return the enclosed postcard to evidence receipt of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric B. Meyertons Reg. No. 34,876

Attorney for Applicant

EBM:etg Enclosures